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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,870	12/16/2004	Rainer Mangold	1703 1333US	3022
29894	7590	04/05/2006	EXAMINER	
DREISS, FUHLENDORF, STEIMLE & BECKER POSTFACH 10 37 62 D-70032 STUTTGART, GERMANY			CRAIG, PAULA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3761	

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/517,870	MANGOLD ET AL.
	Examiner Paula L. Craig	Art Unit 3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 19-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 19-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 December 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/16/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because of the informalities listed on the attached Form PTO-948. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 47 and 48 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 48 is misnumbered as Claim 47. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 19-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. For Claim 19, it is unclear whether or not the head must include cotton fibers. For Claim 20, as the specification defines micro staple fibers as synthetic fibers, it is not clear that viscose fibers may be micro staple fibers as they are not synthetic (see specification, page 3, lines 4-8).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 19-48 are considered to be allowable over the prior art of record, if the above objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 are overcome. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The closest prior art is U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0108846 to Hoertsch and U.S. Patent Nos. 4,650,479 to Insley, 6,153,136 to Collier, 6,440,437 to Krzysik, and 6,573,204 to Philipp et al. Applicant's specification defines micro staple fibers as microfibers having a defined length or defined length range (page 3). Hoertsch teaches a swab having a stick and fiber material forming a head, with the swab being constructed of any suitable material, which may include cotton or microfiber. Hoertsch teaches that the fibers used may be staple fibers of a defined length, and also teaches that the microfibers may be

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continuous. Hoertsch teaches that blends of fibers may be used. Hoertsch does not teach microfibers which are staple fibers of a defined length, nor the defined length being greater than 7 mm. Insley teaches a swab which includes microfibers and cotton. The microfibers are indicated to be discontinuous but having a length approaching infinity (col. 4, lines 26-46). Insley teaches staple fibers of 51 mm in length, but these are indicated as being mixed with microfibers, not as being microfibers themselves. Insley does not teach the microfibers being staple fibers, nor the microfibers having a defined length greater than 7 mm. Collier teaches cellulosic microfibers for use in fabrics, having lengths greater than 7 mm, but does not teach a swab, nor the microfibers being staple fibers of a defined length. Philipp et al. teaches micro staple fibers in a cleaning cloth, but does not teach a swab. Krzysik teaches a swab with staple fibers or microfibers, but does not teach the microfibers being staple fibers of a defined length. The references do not teach the invention as claimed.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 6,629,329 to Webb et al. shows a swab of polyester microfiber. The remaining prior art references listed on the accompanying Form PTO-892 show the general state of the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paula L. Craig whose telephone number is (571)272-5964. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571)272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Paula L Craig
Examiner
Art Unit 3761

PLC

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

